The Incessant care and labour of his mind
Hath wrought the mure[5], that should confine it in[9]

5 Hath WROUGHT the MURE, &c.] i. e. the wall. POPE.

Wrought it thin, is *made it thin by gradual detriment. Wrought* is the preterite *of work.*

Mure is a word used by Heywood, in his Brazen Age, 1613 :

" 'Till I have scal'd these *mures,* invaded Troy!"

Again, in his Golden Age, 1611 :

" Girt with a triple *mure* of shining brass."

Again, in his Iron Age, 2d Part, 1632 :

" Through *mures* and *counter-mures* of men and steel."

Again, in Dyonese Settle's Last Voyage of Capteine Frobisher, 12mo. bl. l. 1577 : "— the streightes seemed to be shut up with a long *mure* of vce—."

The same thought occurs in Daniel's Civil Wars, &c. book iv.

Daniel is likewise speaking of the sickness of King Henry IV.:

" As that the *walls worn thin,* permit the mind
" *To look out thorow,* and his frailtie find."

The first edition of Daniel's poem is dated earlier than this play of Shakspeare.

Waller has the same thought:

" The soul's dark cottage, batter'd and decay'd,
" Let's in new light thro* chinks that time has made."

STEEVENS.

On this passage the elegant and learned Bishop of Worcester has the following criticism : " At times we find him (the imitator) practising a different art: not merely spreading as it were and laying open the same sentiment, but *adding* to it, and by a new and studied device improving upon it. In this case we naturally conclude that the refinement had not been made, if the plain and simple thought had not preceded and given rise to it. You will apprehend my meaning by what follows. Shakspeare had said of Henry the Fourth:

" 'The incessant care and labour of his mind
" * Hath wrought the *mure,* that should confine it in,
** * So thin, that life looks through, and will break out.'

" You have here the thought in its first simplicity. It was not unnatural, after speaking of the body as a case or tenement of the soul, *the mure that confines* it, to say, that as* that case wears away and grows thin, life looks through, and is ready to break out."

After quoting the lines of Daniel, who, (it is observed,) " by refining on this sentiment, if by nothing else, shews himself to

be the copyist," the very learned writer adds. "—Here we see, not simply that *life* is going to break through the infirm and much-worn habitation, but that the *mind* looks through, and *finds* his frailty, that it discovers that life will soon make his escape.—*